

the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 24, 2008, at 10 a.m. in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND  
TRANSPORTATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 24, 2008, at 2:30 p.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC  
WORKS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 24, 2008 at 2:30 p.m. in room 406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled "Bush Administration Environmental Record at Department of the Interior and Environmental Protection Agency."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND  
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 24, 2008, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "Domestic Partner Benefits for Federal Employees: Fair Policy and Good Business."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 24, 2008, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 24, 2008, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 24, 2008. The Committee will meet in room 418 of the Russell Building beginning at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Com-

mittee on Aging be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 24, 2008, from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in Dirksen 562 for the purpose of conducting a hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE LAW

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Human Rights and the Law, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled "Extracting Natural Resources: Corporate Responsibility and the Rule of Law" on Wednesday, September 24, 2008, at 10:45 a.m., in room SH-216 of the Hart Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRORISM, TECHNOLOGY,  
AND HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Terrorism, Technology, and Homeland Security, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled "The Visa Waiver Program: Mitigating the program risks to ensure the safety of all Americans" on Wednesday, September 24, 2008, at 2:30 p.m., in room SH-216 of the Hart Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Elaine Ulrich, a legislative fellow in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MILITARY PERSONNEL  
CITIZENSHIP PROCESSING ACT

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 936, S. 2840.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2840) to establish a liaison with the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to expedite naturalization applications filed by members of the Armed Forces and to establish a deadline for processing such applications.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on the Judiciary with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

S. 2840

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Military Personnel Citizenship Processing Act".

SEC. 2. OFFICE OF THE FBI LIAISON.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 451 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 271) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(g) OFFICE OF THE FBI LIAISON.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—There shall be an Office of the FBI Liaison in the Department of Homeland Security.

"(2) FUNCTIONS.—The Office of the FBI Liaison shall monitor the progress of the functions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the naturalization process to assist in the expeditious completion of all such functions pertaining to naturalization applications filed by, or on behalf of—

"(A) current or former members of the Armed Forces under section 328 or 329 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1439 and 1440);

"(B) current spouses of United States citizens who are currently serving on active duty in the Armed Forces, who qualify for naturalization under section 319(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1430(b)), and surviving spouses and children who qualify for naturalization under section 319(d) of such Act; or

"(C) a deceased individual who is eligible for posthumous citizenship under section 329A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1440-1).

"(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this subsection."

(b) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Attorney General, shall promulgate rules to carry out the amendment made by subsection (a).

SEC. 3. DEADLINE FOR PROCESSING AND ADJUDICATING NATURALIZATION APPLICATIONS FILED BY CURRENT OR FORMER MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND THEIR SPOUSES AND CHILDREN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 328 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1439) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(g) Not later than 6 months after receiving an application for naturalization filed by a current member of the Armed Forces under subsection (a), section 329(a), or section 329A, by the spouse of such member under section 319(b), or by a surviving spouse or child under section 319(d), United States Citizenship and Immigration Services shall—

"(1) process and adjudicate the application, including completing all required background checks to the satisfaction of the Secretary of Homeland Security; or

"(2) provide the applicant with—

"(A) an explanation for its inability to meet the processing and adjudication deadline under this subsection; and

"(B) an estimate of the date by which the application will be processed and adjudicated.

"(h) The Director of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services shall submit an annual report to the Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security, and Refugees and the Subcommittee on Homeland Security of the Senate and the Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law and the Subcommittee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives that identifies every application filed under subsection (a), subsection (b) or (d) of section 319, section 329(a), or section 329A that is not processed and adjudicated within 1 year after it was filed due to delays in conducting required background checks."

(b) GAO REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit a report to Congress that contains the results of a study regarding the average length of time taken by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to process and adjudicate applications for